



Sample Characteristics- 2000 Cohort

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This report compares the second cohort of WorkFirst Study respondents with all people receiving TANF in October 2000. The study sample was drawn from the statewide list of adults receiving welfare assistance in October 2000. Survey respondents were interviewed between February 2001 and August 2001.

There were 37,247 adults receiving welfare assistance in Washington State in October 2000. Of this group, 1,334 individuals were interviewed for 2000 cohort.

This report describes the differences between three groups: the sample frame of all welfare recipients in October 2000, all participants in the 2000 cohort, and the sample frame of all welfare recipients in March 1999 (the sample frame of the first cohort).

All characteristics are from administrative records for adult welfare recipients as of October 2000.

FINDINGS

- **Generally, the 2000 cohort sample is a good representation of the sample frame of all welfare recipients as of October 2000.**
- **Certain ethnic minorities and languages are underrepresented in the sample, including Blacks/African-Americans and Asian/Pacific Islanders, and languages such as**

Russian and Vietnamese. Legal immigrants are also underrepresented in the survey samples. Some of these differences are the result of limited translation capability.¹

- **Some regions are overrepresented in the sample including northeast Washington and southeast/southcentral Washington. King County is also underrepresented in the sample.**
- **Male respondents are underrepresented in the sample.**
- **The sample respondents have a significantly higher incidence of divorce than did the overall welfare population as of October 2000.**
- **The sample respondents were more likely to have a GED.**
- **Survey respondents had somewhat higher levels of unearned and earned income in October 2000 and lower TANF and Food Stamp benefits.**
- **The percentage of continuing welfare recipients was significantly lower in the October 2000 sample frame than in the March 1999 sample frame. The percentage of repeat welfare recipients was significantly higher in the October 2000 sample frame.**

¹ The survey was translated into Spanish. Also, an Asian language interpreter contacted some families who then agreed to complete English language surveys.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF 2000 COHORT (C2) SAMPLE FRAME, C2 PARTICIPANTS, AND COHORT ONE (C1) SAMPLE FRAME

	Sample Frame (C2) n=37,247	C2 n=1334	Sample Frame (C1) n=48,020
Family Size	3.07	2.94*	3.3*
Number of Children	1.91	1.8*	2*
Number of Adults	1	1	1
Age of Youngest Child	5	5	5
Respondent Age	31.17	31.1	30.9*
Highest Grade Completed	11.14	11.39	11.13
Earned GED	12.1%	18.4%*	12.0%
Race			
White	66.7%	73.4%*	68%*
Black/African American	13.2%	8.8%*	11%*
Native American	5.5%	4.3%	5.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.3%	1.9%*	6%*
Hispanic	12.0%	13.0%	9%*
Other	9.2%	10.2%	10%*
Language			
English	90.7%	96.5%*	89%*
Russian	3.3%	0.1%*	3%*
Vietnamese	1.5%	0.1%*	2%*
Spanish	1.5%	2.5%*	2%*
Other	3.0%	0.8%*	4%*
Needs Interpreter	7.6%	2.5%*	8%*
Gender			
Male	10.3%	7.1%*	7%*
Female	89.7%	92.9%*	93%*
Marital Status			
Married	18.3%	16.4%	21%*
Single	6.9%	7.0%	9%*
Divorced	15.8%	20.2%*	15%*
Never Married	46.7%	45.3%	41%*
Region			
Northeast Washington	17.5%	21.7%*	18.0%
Southeast and SouthCentral WA	10.9%	12.9%*	12%*
North Puget Sound	10.6%	10.4%	10%*
King County	21.0%	15.0%*	20%*
Pierce and Kitsap Counties	18.4%	18.3%	19%*
Southwest Washington	21.0%	21.5%	21.0%
Citizenship			
Citizen	89.9%	95.9%*	88%*
Legal Immigrant	10.1%	4%*	12%*
Disability Type			
Disabled	2.4%	3.2%	3%*
Chemical Dependence	0.8%	0.3%*	1%*
Mental or Physical Incapacity	2.0%	2.2%	2.0%
Needs Special Assistance	2.0%	1.9%	2.0%
Received Medicaid	98.2%	98.7%	99.7%*
* Value is significantly different from Sample Frame (C2) at p< 0.05			

	Sample Frame (C2) n=37,247	C2 n=1334	Sample Frame (C1) n=48,020
Welfare History			
Continuing Welfare Recipient	19.4%	20.3%	33%*
New Welfare Recipient	6.3%	6.4%	3%*
Repeat Welfare Recipient	73.7%	73.0%	64%*
Program Type²			
Regular Parent	94.7%	94.7%	84.0%
Employable Parent			15.0%
Pregnant - Federal Only	4.8%	5.2%	
Sanctions			
Initial Sanction	2.0%	1.2%*	2.0%
40% Sanction	2.5%	2.2%	4%*
Any WorkFirst Sanction	4.5%	3.4%	6%*
WorkFirst Exemption Status ¹	1.0%	1.1%	12%*
Number of Spans on WF	2.58	2.61	2.4*
Length of Current Span	18.09	18.36	26*
Oct 2000 TANF Benefit Amount	\$462.03	\$443.47*	\$469*
Oct 2000 Food Stamp Benefit Amt	\$248.07	\$237.58*	\$231*
Total Months on TANF	19.37	19.06	14*
Total Months on AFDC and TANF	45.99	46.76	52*
Unearned Income	\$23.17	\$30.20	\$40.88*
Earned Income	\$144.91	\$156.43	\$157*
Actual Hours Worked	17.97	19.43	23*
* Value is significantly different from Sample Frame (C2) at p< 0.05			
1-Exemption status qualification changed between the time of the two sample frames from child under one year to child under three months			
2-Program type variable coding changed between the two sample frames			